

Claim Status

Please cancel claims 1-11, 13-29, 32, 35-44 and 51 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for applying surgical fixation devices, the apparatus comprising device inserting means which includes guide means in the form of a passage along which a surgical device is movable, the passage comprising in use distal and proximal ends; and a supply means including means for holding one or more surgical devices, the supply means being movably mounted to the proximal end of the guide

means such that in a first condition the supply means is aligned with the passage proximal end such that a surgical device held by the holder means is moveable into the passage, and in a second condition free access is allowed to the proximal end for the insertion of a surgical tool through the passage, the apparatus also comprising a pushing means separate from and insertable into said device inserting means to engage the surgical device in the passage of said device inserting means to push the device therealong, with the distal end of the pushing means contoured to engage with the surgical device; and the distal end of the passage including ~~An apparatus according to claim 11 characterised in that distal end of the passage comprises~~ one or more pointed parts shaped to aid positioning.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for applying surgical fixation devices, the apparatus comprising device inserting means which includes guide means in the form of a passage along which a surgical device is movable, the passage comprising in use distal and proximal end; and a supply means including means for holding one or more surgical devices, the supply means being movably mounted to the proximal end of the guide means such that in a first condition the supply means is aligned with the passage proximal end such that a surgical device held by the holder means is moveable into the passage, and in a second condition free access is allowed to the proximal end for the insertion of a surgical tool through the passage, the apparatus also comprising a pushing means having an elongate member, wherein said pushing means is separate from and insertable into said device inserting means to engage the surgical device in the passage of said device inserting means to push the device therealong, with the distal end of the pushing means contoured to engage with the surgical device ~~An apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that the apparatus comprises a pushing means wherein said pushing means comprises an elongate member.~~

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30 characterised in that the elongate member slidingly fits through the passage.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 30 characterised in that the elongate member $[(30)]$ has a handle part $[(34)]$ on one end.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30 characterised in that the elongate member is flexible.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method of applying a surgical device into a body, the method comprising locating a surgical device in an apparatus for applying surgical fixation devices, the apparatus comprising device inserting means which includes guide means in the form of a passage along which a surgical device is movable, the passage comprising in use distal and proximal end; and a supply means including means for holding one or more surgical devices, the supply means being movably mounted to the proximal end of the guide means such that in a first condition the supply means is aligned with the passage proximal end such that a surgical device held by the holder means is moveable into the passage, and in a second condition free access is allowed to the proximal end for the insertion of a surgical tool through the passage, wherein said surgical tool is an incision means, and an incision is initially made in the body using the incision means extending through the guide means, the apparatus also comprising a pushing means separate from and insertable into said device inserting means to engage the surgical device in the passage of said device inserting means to push the device therealong, with the distal end of the pushing means contoured to engage with the surgical device, moving the supply means such that the surgical device is aligned with the passage proximal end, engaging the distal end of the pushing means with the surgical device, and pushing the surgical device with the pushing means along the passage into the body ~~A method according to claim 40 characterised in that the surgical tool is an incision means, and an incision is initially made in the body using the incision means extending through the guide means.~~

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45 in that whilst the incision means extends through the guide means, the holding means is arranged such that a second hole or recess therein overlies the guide means.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46 characterised in that the incision means freely extends through said second hole or recess.

48. (Currently Amended) A method ~~to any of~~ according to claim 45 characterised in that following incision, the incision means is removed.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 48 characterised in that following removal of the incision means the supply means is moved until a surgical device held therein overlies the guide means.

50. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 49 characterised in that the device is subsequently urged into the guide means and therealong subsequently into the body using [[a]] said pushing means.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for applying surgical fixation devices, the apparatus comprising device inserter which includes a guide in the form of a passage along which a surgical device is movable, the passage includes a distal end and a proximal end; and a supply including a holder for holding one or more surgical devices, the supply being movably mounted to the proximal end of the guide such that in a first condition the supply is aligned with passage proximal end such that a surgical device being held by the holder is moveable into the passage, and in a second condition free access is allowed to the proximal end for the insertion of a surgical tool through the passage, an incision member is provided and is movable in said passage for providing an incision, the apparatus also comprising a separate pusher engageable with a surgical device in the passage to push the device through the passage, into the incision to a desired fixation location within a body, wherein the distal end of the pusher is contoured to engage a surgical device.